

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

COME-00 AID-05 /068 W

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R 130625Z JAN 77

FM AMEBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7567

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR EFIN ECON EALR PINS PGOV LA

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NOUHAH PHOUMSAVANH'S SPEECH ON
AGRICULTURAL TAXES

REF A 76 VIENTIANE 2917, B VIENTIANE 0029, C BANGKOK 0461,

D)VIENTIANE 0009

1. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION DAILY BULLETIN JANUARY 10,
1977, REPORTED A SPEECH MADE BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF FINANCE NOUHAH PHOUMSAVANH ON THE
AGRICULTURAL TAX, REPORTED REF A. NOUHAH SAID THAT
WHEREAS FORMERLY ONLY THE "OLD LIBERATED ZONE" PAID
TAXES, NOW THE WHOLE COUNTRY "DEMONSTRATES PATRIOTISM
AND INDIGNATION TOWARD THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS AND
THEIR LACKEYS BY PAYING THE AGRICULTURAL TAX." AT THE
SAME TIME, NOUHAH SAID THERE ARE SOME TROUBLE MAKERS
IN THE NEW LIBERATED ZONE WHO QUESTION THE GOVERNMENT'S
POLICY AND COMPLAIN THAT THERE WAS NO AGRICULTURAL TAX
UNDER THE FORMER REGIME BUT NOW THERE IS ONE. NOUHAH
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CALLED ON THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW REGIME TO HELP BUILD A
NEW SOCIETY BY PAYING THEIR TAXES. NOUHAH SAID NOT ONLY
THE FARMERS BUT ALSO MERCHANTS, CRAFTSMEN AND INDUS-
TRIAL WORKERS MUST PAY TAXES. HE RECOMMENDED THE
UNLEASHING OF A CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE POPULAR UNDER-
STANDING OF THE TAX POLICIES BY CONDUCTING SEMINARS.

2. POPULAR RESISTANCE TO THE TAX, WHICH BOTH NOUHAK AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ALLUDED TO IN RECENT SPEECHES, REPORTED REF B, IS BECOMING MORE EVIDENT. VILLAGE CHIEF OF A FARMING VILLAGE TEN KILOMETERS FROM VIENTIANE TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 2 THAT POPULAR CRITICISM OF THE TAX WAS SO BITTER THAT THE VILLAGE LEADERS HAVE MADE THE TAX OPTIONAL. BANGKOK REPORTED REF C THAT 104 LAO VILLAGERS FLED TO THAILAND FROM SAYABOURY PROVINCE BECAUSE OF THE TAX. TAX COLLECTORS WERE BLOCKED BY ARMED FARMERS FROM ENTERING VILLAGES 75 KILOMETERS FROM VIENTIANE, AS REPORTED REF D.

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE TAX, ANTICIPATED REF A, WILL CONTINUE TO FUEL POPULAR DISCONTENT.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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